IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.
DILBAGH SINGH, M.D.,
PAUL KIRSCH, M.D.,
V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and

V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and : MARTIN JACOBS, M.D., :

:

Relators,

:

v. : Civil Action No. 04-186E

.

BRADFORD REGIONAL:

MEDICAL CENTER,

V & S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC,
PETER VACCARO, M.D., :
KAMRAN SALEH, M.D.,
and DOES I through XX,

:

Defendants. :

:

APPENDIX TO CONCISE STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACTS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

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1. SALEH DEPOSITION EXCERPTS

CONFIDENTIAL - PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA ERIE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.)
DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,)
M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and)
MARTIN JACOBS, M.D.,)

Relators,

Defendants.

VS.

Civil Action No. 04-186E

BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,)
V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC,)
PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,)
M.D., and DOES I through XX,)

DEPOSITION OF KAMRAN SALEH, M.D.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2007

Deposition of KAMRAN SALEH, M.D., called as a witness by the Plaintiffs, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and before Joy A. Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the offices of Fox Rothschild, 625 Liberty Avenue, 29th Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania commencing at 9:31 a.m. on the day and date above set forth.

CONFIGNITIAL

JOHNSON and MIMLESS (412) 765-0744



No. 04-186E Page 4 APPEARANCES. PROCEEDINGS 1 On behalf of the Relators: 2 3 Stone Law Firm 3 (Saleh Deposition Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2 Andrew M. Stone, Esquire 1400 Allegheny Building were marked for identification.) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 5 5 Simpson Law Firm 6 Mark Simpson, Esquire KAMRAN SALEH, M.D., 6 165 North Main Street Jonesboro, Georgia 30236 7 called as a witness by the Relators, being first duly On behalf of the Defendant Bradford Regional Medical 8 cautioned and sworn, as hereinafter certified, was 9 deposed and said as follows: Horty Springer 10 Dan Mulholland, Esquire **EXAMINATION** 4614 Fifth Avenue 10 11 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213 11 BY MR. SIMPSON: On behalf of the Defendants V&S Medical Associates, LLC, Peter Vaccaro, M.D. and Kamran Saleh, M.D.: Q. Dr. Saleh, could you please state your name for 13 13 the record? 14 Carl J. Rychcik, Esquire 625 Liberty Avenue, 29th Floor A. Kamran Saleh. 14 15 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 Q. Dr. Saleh, my name is Mark Simpson, and I'm 15 16 ALSO PRESENT: 16 sure your attorneys probably explained this to you, 17 John Rice, Horty Springer 17 but I will be asking you a bunch of questions today. 18 Peter Vaccaro, M.D. If there is anything that you don't understand, 19 19 please ask me to restate it or slow down or whatever, 20 TNDEX and I will be happy to oblige. 20 WITNESS: PAGE: 21 Have you ever given a deposition before? 22 KAMRAN SALEH, M.D. 22 A No. 23 Examination by Mr. Simpson 23 Q. Have you ever been involved in a lawsuit as a Page 5 Page 3 EXHIBITS-PAGE: 1 plaintiff or defendant before? Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 1 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 2 A. No. 3 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 3 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 4 3 MR. RYCHCIK: Mark, before we get started, Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 5 63 67 69 77 79 80 87 94 96 97 98 99 102 110 I just wanted to mention about the --4 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 6 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 7 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 8 5 MR. SIMPSON: I'm sorry. I forgot. Let's 5 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 9 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 10 go ahead and put into the record as exhibits, 6 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 11 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 12 Exhibit 1, a copy of a Protective Order 7 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 13 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 14
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 15
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 15
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 16
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 17 Governing Confidentiality of Documents to be 8 9 Produced and Information Obtained in Discovery, Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 18
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 19
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 20
Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 21 10 and as Exhibit 2, a Qualified Protective Order Governing Confidentiality of Protected Health 11 12 Information, both of which have previously been Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 22 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 23 120 12 13 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 24 128 13 entered in this case. Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 25 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 26 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 27 141 MR. RYCHCIK: As we discussed in the 14 15 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 28 15 event, as I anticipate, there will be 16 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 29 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 30 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 31 confidential materials discussed during the 16 17 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 32 deposition and possibly documents, we want to 17 Salch Deposition Exhibit No. 33
Salch Deposition Exhibit No. 34
Salch Deposition Exhibit No. 34
Salch Deposition Exhibit No. 35
Salch Deposition Exhibit No. 36
Salch Deposition Exhibit No. 36 18 165 18 designate the deposition as Confidential in 19 accordance with those Protective Orders. 19 20 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 37 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 38 168 20 Q. Dr. Saleh, who are your currently employed 21 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 39 170 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 40 21 with? 22 Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 41 A. I am self-employed. 22 23 O. Self-employed. Are you currently employed with 23

110. OT 100L	August 6, 2007
Page 6	Page 8
1 V&S Associates?	1 Q. What space does he rent from you?
2 A. Well, V&S is what I own. I am part owner in	2 A. Office space.
3 that.	3 Q. It is like what kind of space? Is it like a
4 Q. It still exists?	4 one-office room or what does he rent?
5 A. Yes.	5 A. No. He uses, like, six exam rooms and then the
6 Q. When did you form V&S?	6 space for the secretary and the computer, the nurse's
7 A. Excuse me?	7 station, and part of the waiting room.
8 Q. When did you form V&S?	8 Q. Is this space that is jointly used by him and
9 A. 2000. It was April of 2000.	9 by you and Dr. Vaccaro?
10 Q. And V&S is a corporation, correct?	10 A. Well, it is kind of separate. The office is
A. That's right, L.L.C.	11 one, but his space is on one side, and ours is on the
12 Q. L.L.C., and it's full name is V&S Associates	12 other side.
13 L.L.C.?	13 Q. So his space is dedicated to him?
14 A. V&S Medical Associates, L.L.C.	14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Who were the original shareholders or members	15 Q. I want to go back to before you formed V&S.
16 of the company?	16 Actually, let's go back a little farther.
17 A. Me, Dr. Saleh, and Dr. Vaccaro.	Where did you go to medical school?
18 Q. Is the ownership the same today?	
19 A. Yes.	18 A. I went to medical school in Karachi, Pakistan.
20 Q. Have you ever had any other owners?	19 Q. When did you graduate?
21 A. No.	20 A. '88.
	21 Q. And when did you come to America?
Q. Do you own it 50-50?A. Yes.	22 A. In '91.
23 A. Yes.	23 Q. Are you a citizen of the United States?
Page 7	Page 9
1 Q. Have you had other doctor employees in the	1 A. Yes.
2 company?	2 Q. When did you become a citizen?
3 A. We had ones for less than a year.	3 A. I can't tell you exactly.
4 Q. Just one?	4 Q. Has it been more than ten years?
5 A. Just one.	5 A. Approximately ten years.
6 Q. Who was that?	6 Q. After graduating medical school, have you had
7 A. Dr. Khan.	7 any other formal medical education?
8 Q. What is his first name?	8 A. Residency training.
9 A. Amir, A-m-i-r.	9 Q. Where did you do your residency?
10 Q. And when did he work for you?	10 A. University of Buffalo.
11 A. I can't tell you exact dates.	11 Q. Was that a general residency, or did you have
12 Q. Do you have the year, approximately?	12 any specialization?
13 A. Approximately 2003.	13 A. Internal medicine.
14 Q. Was there a Dr. Jamil?	14 Q. Did you complete the residency?
15 A. He's renting the space from us.	15 A. Yes.
16 Q. But he has never been employed by you?	16 Q. When did you complete it?
17 A. No.	17 A. '91 to '94.
18 Q. Is he currently renting space from you?	18 Q. Any other formal medical training?
19 A. Yes.	19 A. No.
20 Q. How long has he been renting space?	
21 A. Since 2000.	20 Q. Do you have any board certifications? 21 A. Yes.
#1 #3. DIHOU 2000.	
22 O What is his first name?	•
Q. What is his first name? A. Qazi, Q-a-z-i.	22 Q. What would that be in? 23 A. Internal medicine.

Page 12

Page 13

Page 10

- 1 Q. When did you receive that?
- 2 A. In '94, and then I just -- since that expires
- 3 in ten years, I just renewed that.
- Q. Is that your only board certification?
- A. Yes.

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- O. Have you always practiced in internal medicine?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Could you tell me briefly what internal
- 9 medicine involves?
- A. Internal medicine involves taking care of
- 11 patients both in the office and the hospital, and
- 12 usually it deals with adult medicine and all the
- 13 common diseases that you see, like high blood
- 14 pressure, diabetes, heart disease, they are dealt
- 15 with. If there are certain areas where you need
- 16 subspecialists, then you refer the patients to the
- 17 subspecialist.
- Q. Within the field of internal medicine, do you 18
- 19 specialize in any area?
- A. No. I do have an interest in cardiology.
- Q. With respect to cardiology, what would an 21
- 22 internal physician do?
- 23 A. Like, you take care of patients in the

- 1 at any other hospital?
- A. Other than these two?
- O. Other than these two.
- A. No.
- Q. When did you first get your privileges at
- 6 Bradford?
- A. After my residency. Towards the end of '94.
- Q. What about Olean?
- A. At the same time.
- Q. Has V&S' office been located in the same place
- 11 since you formed it?
- A. Yes.
- 13 O. Where is its office?
- A. It is 24 West Washington Street in Bradford.
- Q. In Bradford? 15
- A. Yes. 16
- 17 Q. How far is it from Bradford Regional Medical
- 19 A. It is about less than a mile.
- Q. How far is it from the Olean Hospital? 20
- A. It is about, roughly, 20 miles. 21
- Q. I would like to focus, for a minute, on the 22
- 23 time period before you bought the nuclear camera that

Page 11

- 1 intensive care unit, and most -- if you go into the
- 2 bigger hospitals, most of the internists are not
- 3 allowed to take care of patients in the critical care
- 4 unit when they are having a heart attack or heart
- 5 failure, congestive heart failure. We do all that.
- Q. Does cardiology make up a substantial
- 7 percentage of your work, would you say?
- MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to form.
- A. Well, it does make up some part of it. I can't
- 10 tell you how much.
- 11 Q. Where do you currently have hospital
- 12 privileges?
- 13 A. Excuse me?
- 14 Q. I'm sorry. Where do you currently have
- 15 hospital privileges?
- 16 A. I have hospital privileges at Bradford Regional
- 17 Medical Center, and I have courtesy privileges in
- 18 Olean General Hospital.
- O. I'm sorry. I didn't understand the last one.
- A. Olean General Hospital.
- 21 Q. Oh, Olean, O-l-e-a-n?
- A. Yes. 22
- Q. In the last ten years, have you had privileges 23

- 1 is sort of at issue in this litigation. I said
- 2 "bought." I should say "leased."
- Do you recall when you leased that camera?
- A. I don't know the exact dates, but it was around
- 5 2001.
- Q. Now, in the period before you leased the
- 7 camera, could you briefly describe to me the nature of
- 8 your practice?
- A. Well, we are a two-physician group practice,
- 10 and we see patients in the office, and if there is
- 11 somebody who gets sick and needs to go to the
- 12 hospital, we admit them in the hospital and take care
- 13 of them in the hospital.
- Q. At this period of time that we are talking
- 15 about, how did most of your patients come to you?
- 16 MR. RYCHCIK: Again, just to be clear, at
- 17 this period of time, we are talking pre2001?
- 18 MR. SIMPSON: Right.
- 19 A. Pre2001?
- 20 Q. Pre2001, before you got the camera, basically.
- A. They were mostly our patients that we acquired 21
- 22 when we bought the practice from the hospital, and the
- 23 new patients are patients that come on the basis of

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	Page 14		Page 16
1	patient referrals or through the ads, the Yellow	1	try to guess.
2	Pages.	2	MR. SIMPSON: Well, that's not exactly
3	Q. I guess I meant to ask this before, but I will	3	true. I might want you to
4	ask it now: You referred to buying the practice from	4	MR. RYCHCIK: He might want you to try
5	the hospital. At some point, you were employed by	5	MR. SIMPSON: I would like you to
6	Bradford Regional Medical Center; is that correct?	6	estimate. If you think you know that you paid
7	A. That's true.	7	about 350, but you can't remember if it was 351
8	Q. Was the same true for Dr. Vaccaro?	8	or 349, then it is perfectly fine for you to
9	A. Yes.	9	estimate, say that it is around 350, knowing
10	Q. What was the nature of that employment? Were	10	that you are not giving me an exact number.
11	you employed as a fulltime hospital-based physician?	11	MR. RYCHCIK: I don't want you to guess.
12	A. Yes. Yes.	12	MR. SIMPSON: I don't want you to guess,
13	Q. During what period of time were you employed by	13	but if you have a basis for estimating, you can
14	the hospital?	14	estimate.
15	A. Well, up until 2000 and before, maybe, we were	15	Q. So it was sometime in 2000 that you bought out
16	employed for maybe a couple of years. I don't know	16	the practice?
17	exactly.	17	A. Yes, sir.
18	Q. And while you were employed by the hospital, is	18	Q. So going back now to the time period when you
19	that when you came up with the idea to form V&S?	19	are with V&S before you bought the nuclear camera, you
20	A. (The witness nods his head.)	1	1
21	MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to the form.	21	would refer them out to someone
22	A. We came up with the idea towards the end of the	22	A. That's right.
23	employment, yes.	23	Q in a lot of instances?
	Page 15		Page 17
1	Q. You mentioned buying out the practice from the	1	A. Yes.
2	hospital. How did that work?	2	Q. What types of referrals would you make?

	rage 13
1	Q. You mentioned buying out the practice from the
2	hospital. How did that work?
3	A. Well, we had a contract with the hospital that
4	had a non-compete clause in it, and we had to stay
5	in Bradford, we had to pay the amount that was
6	specified in our contract, so that is what we paid.
7	Q. Did the non-compete provide that you couldn't
8	compete with Bradford for a certain period of time
9	after you left?
10	A. That's right. Two years.
11	Q. Two years. Do you recall how much you had to
12	pay to get out of that agreement?
13	A. I think it was \$300,000 for both of us, plus
14	goodwill.
15	Q. Do you know how much you paid for the goodwill?
16	A. I don't know what the exact number is. It is
17	probably around \$50,000.
18	MR. RYCHCIK: Again, I don't at any point
19	in time want you to guess during the
20	deposition, Doctor. If you have got an

understanding or a knowledge, that's fine.

MR. RYCHCIK: But no one here wants you to

THE WITNESS: Okay.

	23	Q in a lot of instances?
		Page
	1	A. Yes.
	2	Q. What types of referrals would you make?
	3	A. Like, if patients needed a cardiac
	4	catheterization, we would send the patient for the
	5	cardiac catheterization. Some patients need an
	6	endocrine evaluation, so we would send them to an
	7	endocrinologist or urologist. It was orthopedic
	8	surgeons, so all kind of referrals, whatever the
	9	patient's need is.
	10	Q. Would you also refer patients to the hospital
	11	to be admitted as inpatients?
	12	A. Yes, we do.
	13	Q. Is it fair to say that most of your referrals
-	14	to a hospital went to Bradford?
-	15	MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to the form.
İ	16	A. Well, we refer nationts wherever the

17 opportunity was, wherever the need was. If there is 18 somebody who needed to be admitted to the hospital, we

Q. Did you admit very many inpatients to Olean

Q. -- or other hospitals other than Bradford?

admitted them to Bradford Hospital, yes.

21 Hospital --

A. No.

22

22

23

Kamran Saleh, M.D. August 8, 2007

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		Page 66

- 1 statute?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Do you know whether you had any discussions
- 4 about those issues?
- A. I can't tell you that. I don't know. I don't
- 6 remember.
- Q. If you will flip over to Bates Nos. 00138 and
- 8 139, under question 4, it purports to list
- 9 examinations that the nuclear camera was capable of
- 10 performing. If you will look that over those, does
- 11 that look like an accurate list of procedures that the
- 12 camera could perform?
- A. Yes. 13
- 14 Q. Do you know if that is a comprehensive list or
- 15 is it a partial list?
- 16 A. I can't tell you. I mean, there may be some
- 17 others that are left out.
- 18 Q. Let me ask you as a general question: Were you
- 19 generally copied on correspondence that your attorney
- 20 sent to Bradford's attorney or received from
- 21 Bradford's attorney?
- A. Yes. 22
- 23 Q. When you would get those letters, would you

- 1 not be depriving the Bradford community of services
- 2 that Dr. Saleh can perform with the nuclear cardiology
- 3 equipment in his office. Dr. Saleh has been and
- 4 always will be able to provide his own office-based
- 5 services of this kind."
- Now, after signing the sublease agreement with
- 7 the hospital, you are prohibited from providing those
- 8 types of services, correct?
- MR. RYCHCIK: I don't know if you have
- 10 read through the entire page here. I mean, you
- 11 said you didn't remember the letter, and you
- 12 stopped reading when Mr. Simpson asked
- 13 questions. I want to make sure that you are
- 14 comfortable answering questions about the 15
 - document.
- Q. I am not asking you actually about the 16
- 17 document. I am asking you after -- this document was
- before you signed the sublease. After you signed the
- sublease, the sublease precludes you from performing
- nuclear cardiology tests in your office, correct?
- 21 A. That's true.
- 22 MR. SIMPSON: I would like to mark this as
- 23 Exhibit 7, please.

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- 1 generally read them?
- A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Would you discuss them with Dr. Vaccaro?
- A. Yes.
- 5 MR. SIMPSON: I will have this marked as
- 6 Exhibit 6, please.
- 7 (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 6 was marked
- 8 for identification.)
- Q. Exhibit 6 purports to be a letter, a fax of a
- 10 letter, from Alan Steinberg to Marc Raspanti dated
- 11 February 6, 2002, and I guess my first question is:
- 12 Do you recall receiving this letter?
- 13 A. I don't recall.
- 14 Q. Have you had a chance to look it over?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Have you had a chance to look it over?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Does that change your testimony? Do you recall
- 19 receiving it?
- 20 A. I don't recall receiving it, no.
- 21 Q. I would like you to flip to page 00167 of this,
- 22 the next-to-the-last paragraph starting with "The
- 23 Medical Center." It says, "The Medical Center would

- Page 69 (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 7 was marked
 - 2 for identification.)
 - Q. All right. I have handed you Exhibit 7, which
 - 4 purports to be a February 15, 2002 letter from Marc 5 Raspanti to George Leonhardt, and I would ask you to
 - 6 look at that, and let me know if you have seen this
 - 7 letter.
 - 8 Can you state whether you have seen this letter
 - or not?
 - A. I don't remember seeing it.
 - Q. If you turn to page 157, towards the bottom, it
 - 12 says, "The nuclear camera was installed at V&S in
 - 13 August of 2001."
 - 14 Does that refresh your recollection of when
 - 15 exactly the camera was installed?
 - 16 A. No.
 - 17 Q. But August of 2001 sounds right?
 - A. Yes. 18
 - 19 Q. In general, when Mr. Raspanti would send a
 - 20 letter, would he send it to you -- and listen for -- I
 - 21 don't know if you are going to get an objection or
 - 22 not, but would he send it to you for your review
 - 23 before he would send it to opposing counsel?

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August 8, 2007 No. 04-186E Page 80 Page 78 1 for identification.) 1 A. I can't tell you the dates, no. 2 Q. But it would have been around that time period? 2 O. I have shown you Exhibit 8, which is a May 20, 3 2002 letter to you from Richard McDowell, Chairman of 3 A. (No response.) 4 the Board of Directors, and I would ask if you recall Q. Actually, in order to help you answer that 5 question I will go ahead and show you Exhibit 10. 5 receiving this letter? (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 10 was A. No, I don't recall. 6 Q. Have you looked over the letter? 7 marked for identification.) Q. Exhibit 10 purports to be a letter from you to A. I am looking now. 9 Richard McDowell dated June 25th, 2002, and in this Q. Have you had a chance to look at this letter? 10 letter, you discuss a June 12th meeting. So, first of A. Yes. 11 all, do you recall sending Exhibit 10, that letter to O. Do you recall receiving it? 12 A. No. 12 Mr. McDowell? A. I don't recall sending the letter, no. 13 Q. That was a no? 13 14 Q. Is that your signature? A. No. 14 15 A. Yes. 15 O. If you go to the last paragraph on the first Q. Did you routinely send copies of your letters 16 16 page, it says, "Data collected by the Medical Center 17 that you sent to Mr. McDowell to your attorney to be 17 shows that you have significantly changed your 18 kept in their files? 18 practice pattern in terms of your usage of the Medical MR. RYCHCIK: I'm going to object, again, 19 Center's equipment. We understand that is because you 19 the same objection we had before. I don't know 20 are now using the V&S equipment in its place." 20 21 that I want to have him testifying as to his Irrespective of the fact that you don't recall

22 practice of communicating with his attorney, 22 receiving this letter, is that a true statement? 23 which would include commenting on him sending A. I never saw the data, so I can't tell. Page 79 copies of things. Q. But it is a true statement that you 1 MR. SIMPSON: I don't think that impli-2 3 cates attorney-client privilege at all. We

9

10

11

12

13

18

19

20

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2 significantly changed your practice patterns, because 3 you were using the V&S equipment? MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to the form of 4 4 5 the question. A. We were using V&S equipment more, yes. 6 7 Q. You will note in the second paragraph, the 8 first page, that Mr. McDowell says that, "The next 8

step is for you, Dr. Vaccaro, and the Board to meet."

Do you recall a request from Mr. McDowell that 10

11 you all have a meeting in this time period?

A. Yes.

11

21

23

Q. Did you respond that you were willing to meet

14 with the committee?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I will show you Exhibit 9, then.

17 (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 9 was marked

18 for identification.)

O. Exhibit No. 9 is a June 11th, 2002 letter from

20 George Leonhardt to you and Dr. Vaccaro, and it

21 purports to talk about, "The purpose of our meeting

22 tomorrow." Do you recall whether you had a meeting on

23 or around June 12th, 2002?

have got a copy of a letter signed by him that was produced by his attorneys, and he says he doesn't remember. I have got to have some way of authenticating it.

MR. RYCHCIK: So your question is what his practice of communication was with his attorney.

MR. SIMPSON: Which I don't anticipate that you are going to deny the authenticity of this letter.

14 MR. RYCHCIK: Like I said, I think we can 15 stipulate to the authenticity of the letter. I don't want him to get into the attorney-client 16 17 communications, though.

MR. SIMPSON: That is fine with me, as long as you don't have any authenticity objections to these letters.

Q. First, does that refresh your recollection as 21 22 to whether you had a meeting on June 12th?

A. We had a meeting.

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Page 150

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You are looking at Cardiolite resting. So it
- 3 looks like the 52 is the adding up of the Adenosine
- 4 and the treadmill?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. Do you know why he would be separating those
- 7 out for the handwriting at the bottom? What is
- 8 significant about that?
- 9 A. That is just the calculation for the stress
- 10 testing, and that is not my writing.
- 11 Q. That is not yours. Do you know whose it is?
- 12 A. I don't know whose writing that is.
- 13 Q. Was this a document that you provided to
- 14 Bradford?
- 15 A. I don't recall.
- 16 Q. Do you recall whether you generated this
- 17 document in the context of your negotiations with
- 18 Bradford over the under arrangements or the lease
- 19 agreement?
- 20 A. I don't recall that, either.
- 21 Q. Do you routinely print out these documents
- 22 every month?
- A. We print out an end-of-the-month report every

- 1 A. This is a statement that we sent to the
- 2 hospital when the hospital was using the nuclear
- 3 camera at our facility.
- 4 Q. So the \$4,879.84 is your bill to the hospital
- 5 for the rent --
- 6 A. The cost.
- 7 Q. -- the cost of keeping the camera on your site?
- 8 A. Not just the cost. It includes the running of
- 9 the camera, too.
- 0 Q. But it is payments that they are making to you
- 11 for keeping the camera at your facility instead of at
- 12 the hospital, right?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And those payments are in addition to the other
- 15 payments that would be under the sublease?
- 16 A. That's true.
- 17 Q. And the next page is a copy of their check to
- 18 you for that amount, it looks like?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And the next page 3156 is a similar statement
- 21 for November of 2003, correct?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. Then the next page, it says, "Receipts," and

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1 month.

- 2 Q. Is this one of the documents that comes out at
- 3 the end-of-the-the-month report?
- 4 MR. RYCHCIK: Are you talking about this
- 5 time period or these dates?
- 6 MR. SIMPSON: Yes. The time period when
- 7 these date are.
- 8 Q. I am trying to figure out if this is a
- 9 routinely printed document printed at that time or was
- 10 this printed out for a special reason?
- 11 A. I don't think it was a routinely printed out
- 12 document, so it must have been prepared to get some
- 13 information.
- 14 Q. You don't know how you used that information?
- 15 A. That is right. It could just be for our own
- 16 purposes.
- 17 Q. I'm going to mark as Exhibit 30 all the
- 18 documents you handed to us this morning.
- 19 (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 30 was
- 20 marked for identification.)
- Q. Exhibit 30 is Bates labeled 3154 through 3170.
- 22 The first page is a statement of October 2003. Is
- 23 this a statement for -- what is this first page?

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- 1 there is no date on it, though, that I can see. Is
- 2 this a -- how can you tell what period this is for?
- 3 A. It is after November, because it says November
- 4 rental statement.
- 5 Q. Oh, I see. Okay. So this is, basically, your
- 6 receipt for the payment that you received, and you
- 7 received a total -- the top line is "Total receipts,
- 8 \$24,922.31." What is that payment? What is that?
- 9 A. That is the payment received by use of the
- 10 nuclear camera.
- 11 Q. Is that the sublease payment?
- 12 A. No. The way it was handled initially was after
- 13 it came into the contract with the hospital for
- 14 sublease, then the camera stayed at our facility for
- 15 several months, and then used in our facility; and
- 16 when it was used, we continued to provide the
- 17 services, but the income that was generated from that
- 18 date on was the hospital's money.
- 19 So this is the income brought in from that day
- 20 on, and then you can see that there are expenses that
- 21 are deducted. So whatever it was less was there, and
- 22 then their rental statement, and then the actual
- 23 payment to BRMC was made of this much dollars.

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Page 154

- Q. So this was a payment made by you to BRMC?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. So the 424,922 is payments that you received
- 4 from --
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. -- from --
- 7 A. The operation of the nuclear camera.
- 8 Q. At that point, were you billing for the tests?
- 9 A. Yes
- 10 O. So you were billing for them, and then you were
- 11 collecting --
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. So the camera had been subleased to Bradford at
- 14 that time?
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 Q. But Bradford wasn't billing for the tests?
- 17 A. That's true.
- 18 Q. You were billing -- you would collect payment
- 19 from insurers or whoever, and then you would subtract
- 20 out a 10 percent billing charge, correct?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And then you would also subtract out a 24
- 23 percent reading charge for Dr. O'Donnell?

154 Page 156

- 1 Q. And then the next two pages show the same stuff
- 2 for December of 2003?
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. And then the next page shows a statement for
- 5 January of 2004, but I don't see any receipts page, a
- 6 similar receipts page for January of 2004, and did you
- 7 think that was omitted, or did they cheat you that
- 8 month? No offense.
- 9 A. No. I think maybe the receipt was not enough
- 10 to go along with that in that month. So, therefore,
- 11 it was totaled with the February statement. After the
- 12 February statement, you can see.
- 13 Q. So you got the February statement on page 3161,
- 14 and then on 3162, you have the February receipts page,
- 15 just like we discussed before, which reflects that you
- 16 all ended up making a payment to Bradford of 7652?
- 17 A. That's true.
- 18 O. And then that includes -- does that include --
- 19 is this, like, a two-month type page? Does that
- 20 include January and February?
- 21 A. No. It just saves that February statement, so
- 22 that did not include a January statement. So if you
- 23 go farther, you can see --

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- A. Yes.
- 2 O. Now, is that 24 percent reading charge, is that
- 3 a pass-through charge?
- 4 A. Yes. It goes to Dr. O'Donnell.
- 5 O. You weren't making any profit on that number?
- 6 A. I don't remember exactly.
- 7 Q. And then there is something for medication
- 8 receipts. What is that?
- 9 A. Like Cardiolite and all the medication that is
- 10 used, you buy the medication, and then the insurance
- 11 company pays you for that.
- 12 Q. So that would be for medication, would you have
- 13 any profit on that number?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. So that is your actual cost of purchasing the
- 16 medication that was used in the test that you are
- 17 performing for Bradford?
- 18 A. That's true.
- 19 Q. So when you subtract out that, you come to the
- 20 9,180.76, and then you subtract out the rental payment
- 21 that they owed you, and you come to 4,593.94, which
- 22 you paid to them?
- 23 A. That's true.

- 1 Q. But your total receipts for that period are
- 2 42,000 plus, which is substantially more than the
- 3 27,000?
- 4 A. Because this is probably two months.
- 5 O. So it is two months of receipts, less two
- 6 months of expenses?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And then you have the same thing the next
- 9 couple of pages for March of 2004, and then the next
- 10 two pages are the same thing for April of 2004; and
- 11 then you have a statement from May of 2004, correct?
- 12 A. That is true.
- 13 Q. But there is no separate receipts page?
- 14 A. That's right.
- 15 Q. And then a statement for June and then a
- 16 receipts page following that, which looks like it
- 17 includes monies from several months.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. But if you take all of these receipts pages,
- 20 they cover that whole period that the statements refer
- 21 to?
- 22 A. Right.
- 23 Q. And in the last couple of months there, say,

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6

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Page 158

1 May -- in May, there is a rent charge of 2,500 and a

- 2 secretarial support of 1,000, and then in June, there
- 3 is a 25 rent, and no secretarial support. There are a
- 4 lot of things that were included in previous months
- 5 that aren't included in those months?
- 6 A. They stopped doing the stress test at that
- 7 time, so there is no fee for secretarial support or
- 8 other support.
- 9 O. So at this time, the equipment was in your
- 10 office, but it wasn't being used?
- 11 A. That particular month.
- 12 Q. So in April it was not used?
- 13 A. April?
- 14 Q. Page 3165?
- A. April, right.
- 16 Q. And then for May, it was not used, correct?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. And then in June it was also not used?
- 19 A. Right.
- 20 Q. So let's say in April, May, and June, it wasn't
- 21 being used?
- 22 A. That is right.
- 23 Q. Do you know if the hospital -- had you gotten

- 1 A. These are payments by us to the hospital.
- 2 Q. All right. I understand.
- 3 A. Right.
- MR. RYCHCIK: Can we go off the record a
- 5 second?
 - (Discussion off the record.)
- (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 31 was
- 8 marked for identification.)
- 9 Q. I have shown you Exhibit 31 is an agreement
- 10 dated April 16, 2003. The last two pages appear to be
- 11 out of order, but that is just the way they were
- 12 produced to us, but I think they are just out of
- 13 order. Is this a copy of an agreement that V&S and
- 14 Bradford signed?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And on Bates No. 0664, you and Dr. Vaccaro also
- 17 signed agreeing to be bound by the terms and
- 18 conditions of the agreement?
- 19 A. That's true.
- 20 Q. And this agreement, is it sort of fair to
- 21 characterize this agreement as an agreement to enter
- 22 into the lease agreement?
 - MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to the form of

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23

- 1 the new equipment at that time, the new camera by that
- 2 time?
- 3 A. I don't know for sure if that is the time
- 4 period.
- 5 O. Let me ask you this: Did you return the old
- 6 camera at the same time you got the new camera, or was
- 7 there an overlap?
- 8 A. There was an overlap.
- 9 Q. There was an overlap of time when you had the
- 10 old camera and Bradford had the new camera?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Let's look at the very last page of this
- 13 exhibit, 3170. This is another vendor QuickReport
- 14 like the ones we had talked about before.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. So is that yet one more page?
- 17 A. This is just to show the amount that we have
- 18 talked about in those statements, those are being paid
- 19 to the hospital, so all the --
- 20 Q. These are not receipts by you? These are
- 21 payments by you?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. I understood they were --

- the question and to the extent you are calling
- 2 for a legal conclusion.
- 3 O. Let me put it to you this way, paragraph one,
- 4 in the middle, it says, "The equipment will be
- 5 subleased to the Medical Center pursuant to a sublease
- 6 between the parties."
- 7 A. Where is that?
- 8 Q. In the middle of paragraph 1.
- 9 MR. RYCHCIK: Paragraph numbered 1?
- 10 MR. SIMPSON: Paragraph numbered 1.
- 11 MR. RYCHCIK: As opposed to the first
- 12 paragraph, Doctor.
- 13 Q. As opposed to the first paragraph of the
- 14 document, Doctor.
- 15 A. This is paragraph No. 1?
- 16 Q. Where it says, "The equipment will be subleased
- 17 to the Medical Center pursuant to a sublease between
- 18 the parties."
- 19 A. Yes, that's what it says.
- 20 Q. The actual sublease was not executed until
- 21 sometime later, correct?
- 22 A. That's true.
- Q. Did the sublease begin upon the execution of

Page 158 - Page 161

Page 164

1 this agreement, or upon the execution of the

2 subsequent agreement?

A. No. The subsequent agreement.

Q. After you executed this agreement, you still

5 kept the camera and operated it as your own?

A. That's true.

Q. No rights passed to the hospital with respect

8 to the equipment under this lease --

A. Yes.

Q. -- under this agreement?

A. That's true. 11

12 (Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 32 was

13 marked for identification.)

Q. I am showing you Exhibit 32, and is this a copy

15 of the actual Equipment Sublease that was executed?

A. Yes. 16

17 O. And was it executed on October 1, 2003?

A. That is what the date says.

O. I'm sorry. Actually, will you flip over to

20 page 17 which is Bates labeled 0316?

A. It was signed 9-22-03.

Q. But it was effective as of October 1st? 22

23 A. October 1st. Page 162

1 give them first right of refusal.

2 O. So by individually agreeing to that paragraph

3 14, are you agreeing that you individually can't go

4 out and open up, you know, The Medical Associates

5 L.L.C., a separate company, to try and get around the

6 non-compete? Is that your understanding?

MR. RYCHCIK: Again, objection to the 7

8 extent you are seeking a legal conclusion.

MR. SIMPSON: I am asking his

10 understanding.

11 A. My understanding is as a person, also, not only

12 as a part of V&S. As a person, Kamran Saleh cannot go

13 and do that.

9

Q. And there has never been a subsequent lease

15 agreement entered into between V&S and Bradford,

16 correct?

17 A. That's correct.

MR. SIMPSON: This will be quick. I just 18

19 want to show this to you and have you look at

20

(Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 33 was 21

22 marked for identification.)

Q. I'm showing you Exhibit 33, and it is entitled

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O. So October 1st was the date that the sublease

2 went into effect?

A. Yes.

Q. And at the bottom of page 17, that is your

5 signature and Dr. Vaccaro's signature, correct?

A. Yes.

O. It says at the bottom of page 17, it says,

8 "Kamran Saleh, M.D., and Peter Vaccaro, M.D., as

9 individuals residing in the Commonwealth of

10 Pennsylvania, also agree to be bound by the terms and

11 conditions of Section 14 of this sublease"?

A. Yes. 12

17

Q. What do you understand -- I know you are not a

14 lawyer, but what do you understand you were verbally

15 literally agreeing to there?

A. My understanding --16

MR. RYCHCIK: I want to formally object to

18 the extent you are asking for a legal

19 conclusion.

A. My understanding of this is that this was a

21 covenant not to compete and not to enter into any

22 ventures including the nuclear camera and the MRI or

23 CT scan; and if we do, then talk to the hospital and

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1 on the first page, MaxiService Schedule, dated as of

2 6-6-01 to Master Lease Agreement dated as of 6-6-01.

Then if you flip over a couple of pages, there

4 is a document entitled, "Early Buyout Option."

Then if you flip over another couple of other

6 pages, there is a document entitled, "Non-GE Equipment

7 Addendum to Master Lease Equipment."

Then if you flip over another couple of pages,

9 there is another document, "GE Addendum to Master

10 Lease Agreement," and I want to ask, are these all

11 documents relating to your original lease of the first

12 camera?

A. Yes. 13

Q. And then let me show you what will be 34. 14

(Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 34 was 15

16 marked for identification.)

17 MR. SIMPSON: While I'm at it, this will

18 be 35.

(Saleh Deposition Exhibit No. 35 was 19

20 marked for identification.)

Q. I have shown you Exhibits 34 and 35. You can

22 look through them, but my question is are these all

23 documents relating to the subsequent lease with the

JAH - August 9, 2007

In re: **USA et al., vs. BRMC et al.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

My commission expires: $\frac{2}{3}\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{300}$

NOTARIAL SEAL

MARYELLEN TROUTMAN, WOTARY PUBLIC BRADFORD, MCKEAN COUNTY, PA MY COCAMISSION EXPERES FEBRUARY 24, 2010

2. VACCARO DEPOSITION EXCERPTS

CONFIDENTIAL - PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA ERIE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.)

DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,)

M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and)

M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and MARTIN JACOBS, M.D.,

Relators,

vs.

BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,)
V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC,)
PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,)
M.D., and DOES I through XX,)

Defendants.

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DEPOSITION OF PETER VACCARO, M.D.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2007

Deposition of PETER VACCARO, M.D., called as a witness by the Plaintiffs, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and before Joy A. Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the offices of Fox Rothschild, 625 Liberty Avenue, 29th Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, commencing at 2:56 p.m. on the day and date above set forth.

23

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

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Civil Action No. 04-186E

USA, et al., vs. BRMC., et al. No. 04-186E

Multi-Page TM

Peter Vaccaro, M.D. August 9, 2007

No. 04-186E	August 9, 2007
Page 14	Page 16
1 EXCERPTED PORTION FOR ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY	1 hospitals?
2	2 A. No.
3	3 Q. Have you ever been denied privileges at any
4	4 other hospital?
5	5 A. No.
6	6 Q. In Dr. Saleh's deposition, I asked him several
7	7 questions about the formation of V&S Medical
8	8 Associates. Were you paying attention during that
9	9 questioning?
10	10 MR. RYCHCIK: Objection.
11	11 A. Yes.
12	MR. RYCHCIK: Objection to the form of the
13	13 question.
14	14 Q. I didn't mean that insultingly. I meant
15	MR. RYCHCIK: Go ahead. I withdraw the
16	16 question.
17	17 A. Yes, I was.
18	18 Q. Do you have any disagreement with Dr. Saleh's
19	19 testimony about the formation of V&S?
20	20 MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to the form of
21	21 the question. Go ahead. You can answer.
22	22 A. No.
23	23 Q. As far as you could tell, his testimony was
Page 15	Page 17
1 (EXAMINATION RESUMED AFTER "ATTORNEYS"	1 accurate?
2 EYES ONLY" EXCERPT OF DEPOSITION OF DR. VACCARO WITH	2 A. Yes, it was.
3 EXAMINATION RESUMED BY ATTORNEY SIMPSON.)	3 Q. About how V&S was formed?
4	4 A. Yes.
5 EXAMINATION	5 Q. And you understand, I'm asking it this way,
6 BY MR. SIMPSON:	6 because I'm trying to move things along?
7 Q. Where do you currently have privileges,	7 A. I understand.
8 hospital privilegeS?	8 MR. RYCHCIK: Just for the record, Mark, I
9 A. I have privileges at two hospitals. My first	9 don't have a problem with trying to move things
10 hospital privileges were Bradford Regional Medical	10 along.
11 Center.	MR. SIMPSON: I understand.
12 Q. And when did you get those?	MR. RYCHCIK: I do want to proceed
13 A. In 1994.	13 carefully
14 Q. And you have had those since then?	MR. SIMPSON: I understand.
15 A. Yes, I have.	MR. RYCHCIK: though, because if you
16 Q. And where else?	are just going to group all the testimony
17 A. At Olean General Medical Center.	together, I do think that is going to be a
18 Q. And when did you get those?	18 problem.
19 A. I don't recall, sir. Sometime in 2001 or 2 or	MR. SIMPSON: No. I'm not grouping it all
20 3, within those times.	20 together. I understand.
21 Q. Five years, plus or minus ago?	Q. I also asked Dr. Saleh a question about V&S'
22 A. Yes.	22 practice before you acquired the nuclear camera. Was
23 Q. Have you ever had privileges at any other	23 there anything that he testified about the nature of

Multi-Page TM

1

Peter Vaccaro, M.D. August 9, 2007

Page 24

Page 25

Page 22

- 1 be sent there.
- 2 Q. But that was a small percentage of the tests
- 3 that you were performing, right?
- A. I don't know what percentage it was.
- 5 Q. You just said it was easy to figure out much
- 6 you sent to the hospital?
- A. That part.
- 8 Q. So it is not easy to figure out how many you
- 9 sent anywhere else?
- A. Not as much.
- Q. Really? How come?
- 12 A. Because --
- 13 Q. What is the difference?
- 14 A. The difference is then because then you left
- 15 up -- you left the decision to do the stress test up
- 16 to the cardiologist in that institution.
- 17 Q. But how is it easy to know when they are being
- 18 done in Bradford, but it is not as easy to know when 18
- 19 they are being done somewhere else?
- A. Because I'm actually doing the ones at 20
- 21 Bradford.
- 22 Q. So all the ones you are not doing are being
- 23 done somewhere else?

- Saleh, if you are able to make a reasonable
- 2 estimate, that is one thing. I don't want you
- to be guessing if you don't know.
- Q. Now, in terms of non-nuclear tests, other kinds
- 5 of tests, MRIs and CT scans, and x-rays, a similar
- 6 question, is it fair to say that the majority of those
- 7 were done at Bradford?
- A. Yes.
- O. We talked a minute ago about whether you
- 10 attempted to qualify the value of getting a new
- 11 camera. Did you come to a dollar figure that you
- 12 thought you would get for increased revenues or
- 13 increased profit?
- A. I don't recall what we actually came up with at
- 15 that time.
- Q. Would it have been in the hundreds or thousands
- 17 of dollars per year for you?
 - A. It could have been.
- Q. Do you recall whether you looked at any other
- 20 cameras, other than the GE camera that you ended up
- 21 leasing?
- A. I don't recall. 22
- Q. After you got the camera, is it fair to say

Page 23

1 with the exception of nuclear imaging referrals, your

- 2 other referral patterns stayed the same?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And your nuclear imaging referrals changed in
- 5 that a lot of tests you were doing you were doing
- 6 in-house that you otherwise would have performed at
- 7 Bradford, correct?
- A. Obviously, we weren't going to be performing
- 9 them in the office anymore, and Bradford would be one
- 10 of the choices that would be decided upon. There
- 11 could be several choices.
- 12 Q. You might have misunderstood my question.
- 13 MR. RYCHCIK: I was going to say, I think
- 14 he might have misunderstood the question.
- Q. I am talking about during the period when you
- 16 had the new camera, when you leased it.
- A. Oh, when I had the nuclear camera. I thought
- 18 you meant after.
- Q. So with respect to nuclear imaging tests, your
- 20 referrals to Bradford went down, because a lot of the
- 21 tests that would have been done there, you were doing
- 22 in-house?
- 23 A. Correct.

MR. RYCHCIK: Objection as to the form of

- 2 the question.
- A. Yes.

1

- Q. What percentage of them were you doing?
- A. Approximately 80 percent or so, probably.
- Q. Did Dr. Saleh do any of the tests at Bradford?
- A. Yes, he did.
- Q. So you weren't the only one doing it at
- 9 Bradford, then?
- 10 A. Correct.
- Q. I thought you just said that you did -- that
- 12 all of the ones done at Bradford were done by you?
- 13 A. No. That is not what I said.
- 14 Q. You are saying all the ones that you did were
- 15 done at Bradford?
- 16 A. I was speaking for myself.
- 17 Q. Did you do more than Dr. Saleh, or did he do
- 18 more than you?
- A. I think I probably did a little bit more than
- 20 him.
- 21 MR. RYCHCIK: I do want to caution you. I
- don't want you to be guessing. It is the same 22
- 23 kind of thing as Mr. Simpson instructed Dr.

JAH - August 9, 2007

In re: **USA et al., vs. BRMC et al.

**Peter Vaccaro, M.D.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of September, 2007.

My commission expires:

NOTARIAL SEAL MARYELLEN TROUTMAN, NOTARY PUBLIC BRADFORD, MCKEAN COUNTY, PA N COMMESSION EXPIRES FEBRUARY 24, 2010

3. SINGH DEPOSITION EXCERPTS

1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA ERIE DIVISION
3	
4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.) DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,) M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and)
5	MARTIN JACOBS, M.D.,
6	Relators,) Civil Action
7	vs.) No. 04-186E
8	BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER,)
9	V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC, PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,) M.D., and DOES I through XX,)
10	M.D., and DOES I through AA,
11	Defendants.)
12	DEPOSITION OF DILBAGH SINGH, M.D.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007

Deposition of DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., called as a witness by the Defendant Bradford Regional Medical Center, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and before Joy A. Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the offices of Stone Law Office, 1400 Allegheny Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, commencing at 10:10 a.m. on the day and date above set forth.

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JOHNSON and MIMLESS (412) 765-0744

ORIGINAL

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Page 25

Page 22

Q. Is it also your understanding that the Stark

2 rules allow for certain exceptions, certain

3 transactions that might be okay?

A. I don't know, but I think that I was told that

5 there are certain areas where if it is done properly,

6 with proper guidelines from OIG or the Attorney

7 General's office or from the responsible parties to

8 get permission from them, that whether that falls into

9 that category, yes, one could probably attempt to do

10 those kind of things, and those are only under

11 privileged places somewhere in the country where the

12 services may not be available for those things.

But this is a very broad brush you are talking. 13

14 I don't know. There are many, many stages in that, 15 also, which I am not privy to, and I think there are

16 those more than me who are more privy to those things.

O. Is it your understanding that one of those

18 areas that might be covered by an exception would

19 include an equipment lease?

A. I don't know. I don't know if that would cover 20

21 it or not.

Q. Doctor, what is your general understanding of

23 the Medicare Anti-kickback Law?

subject that was pursued in a Motion to Compel 1

> several months ago and the subject of Judge 2

Cohill's order, and we believe that the 3

Plaintiffs' business relationships and 4

professional relationships and conduct in this 5

case is irrelevant to the issues in the case,

the claims, and the defenses, and, therefore,

I'm going to instruct the doctor not to answer 8 9

any questions.

MR. MULHOLLAND: And we will ask the court reporter to please mark that page for

certification to the Court. 12

(Question certified for later discussion.)

MR. MULHOLLAND: Let me ask a follow-up 14

question that I anticipate to the same 15 objection, but it is different than the 16

questions I asked Dr. Nadella yesterday.

Q. Dr. Singh, did you ever request financial 18

assistance from Bradford Regional Medical Center to 19

recruit a new member or members of your practice?

MR. STONE: I'm going to object, and I 21

22 instruct the witness not to answer. 23

(Question certified for later discussion.)

Page 23

1 A. I think I understand -- I don't -- it is the

2 same -- if you give me something to read, I can read

3 that, because I don't have, generally a very thorough

4 kind of information on these things.

But, generally, I believe that it is the same

6 thing that if you refer some cases and you get money

7 for that, it would be a kickback type of situation.

8 That is how I understand it.

Q. Again, with respect to the kickback law, is it

10 your understanding that there are any so-called safe

11 harbors that allow some transactions in a manner

12 similar to what you described for the Stark Law

13 exceptions?

14 A. I don't know now. I would have to read up on

15 those things to talk about it.

16 Q. Doctor, you mentioned earlier that you were

17 never employed by Bradford Regional Medical Center.

18 Did you ever perform personal services for the Medical

19 Center for which you were compensated by the Medical

20 Center?

21

23

MR. STONE: I'm going to object to ques-

tions about Dr. Singh's business relationships 22

with various entities. Again, this is the

Q. Have you ever receive any financial assistance

2 from Bradford Regional Medical Center respect to

recruiting new physicians to your practice?

MR. STONE: Again, I will object and 4

5 instruct the witness not to answer.

(Ouestion certified for later discussion.)

O. Do you perform any kind of case review or

utilization review services for Bradford Regional

Medical Center?

12

MR. STONE: Again, I will object and 10

11 instruct the witness not to answer.

(Question certified for later discussion.)

O. Dr. Singh, are you presently appointed to the 13

medical staff of any hospital other than Bradford

15 Regional Medical Center?

A. Yes. I am continuing my privileges in Olean

17 General Hospital, which is a neighboring state

18 hospital, and that has been going on for, I guess,

19 almost -- I don't remember when I started there, but,

20 you know, it's a good 15 to 20 years. It is ongoing,

21 and I am renewing my privileges, although I have cut

22 down a lot of my work on that.

O. That is in Olean, New York?

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- 1 Mr. Mulholland's questions. The same instructions
- 2 apply, and I think at any point in time, as Mr.
- 3 Mulholland said, if you need a break, please let me
- 4 know.
- You have talked about the fact that you
- 6 currently practice at a practice known as Singh &
- 7 Nadella; is that correct?
- A. That's right.
- Q. What type of services do you provide at your
- 10 practice?
- A. It is a general medical practice for mostly
- 12 adult and some pediatric age group. We have some
- 13 cut-off limits there.
- Q. Are you familiar with V&S Medical Associates?
- A. Yes. 15
- Q. First, let me ask you. Do you have an office
- 17 of Singh & Nadella in Bradford, Pennsylvania?
- A. Yes, we do. 18
- Q. How far is your Bradford office from V&S
- 20 Medical Associates?
- A. It is not that far. It is maybe within a block 21
- 22 or so.
- Q. Are you familiar with what types of services 23

- 1 Q. But were there some patients who left and now
- 2 treat with Dr. Saleh?
- 3 A. There might be. I don't know. I don't
- 4 remember.
- Q. Now, you have testified about the sublease that
- 6 someone placed in your mailbox at the hospital. Do
- 7 you recall that testimony?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you don't know who placed that copy of that
- 10 sublease between V&S and BRMC in your mailbox,
- 11 correct?
- A. That is correct. 12
- Q. Do you routinely get copies of contracts of
- 14 which you are not a party placed in your mailbox by
- 15 unknown individuals?
- A. I don't know. Whatever comes in the mailbox, I
- 17 look at it, whether those are contracts, whether those
- 18 are memos, whether those are letters, whether those
- 19 are reports. Whatever is in my mailbox, I look at it.
- O. Do you recall any other instances when someone
- 21 placed a contract between other parties in your
- 22 mailbox?
- A. I don't remember contracts, but some letters to

Page 95

- 1 V&S Medical Associates provides?
- A. I'm not familiar with all the services, but
- 3 they also provide medical services. What they do in
- 4 their offices, I'm not sure what kind of more things
- 5 they do in the office, but they provide adult medical
- 6 care, internal medicine.
- Q. For the most part, it is similar services to
- 8 the services Singh & Nadella provides?
- A. For most of the part, yes.
- Q. How would you describe your relationship with
- 11 Drs. Vaccaro and Saleh?
- A. They are just colleagues in the medical staff
- 13 there as any other medical -- as all the medical staff
- 14 members are there.
- Q. When your relationship or the employment of Dr.
- 16 Saleh terminated at Singh & Nadella, was that a
- 17 contentious ending to the employment relationship?
- A. I don't think so.
- Q. Did any patients who Dr. Saleh treated while he
- 20 was employed at Singh & Nadella leave the practice and
- 21 treat with Dr. Saleh?
- A. I don't remember details of those things. Some
- 23 of them might have. I don't remember all the cases.

Page 97 1 some effects of that probably comes through the mail

- 2 and are there.
- O. I am just asking, specifically, about
- 4 contracts, though, contracts between other parties
- 5 that you are not a party to.
- 6 A. I don't know. I can't answer you that. I
- 7 don't remember. There might have been some cases, but
- 8 I don't remember.
- Q. Do you recall ever receiving a copy of a
- 10 contract or a lease between V&S Medical Associates and
- 11 GE Financial Services?
- 12 A. That was also found in the same manner there,
- 13 some copies of that, yes.
- Q. Do you recall when you received a copy of the
- 15 V&S/GE lease?
- A. I don't remember the time frame, no.
- Q. Was it at the same time as you received a copy
- 18 of the sublease that we have talked about here today
- 19 between V&S and BRMC?
- 20 A. I really don't remember. I would have to look
- 21 back and see what happened at that time.
- 22 Q. Do you recall if it was in the same envelope or
- 23 if it was at the exact same time?

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HEBHZ Caye 1:04-€V-00186-MBC
Margaret Koenig Mimless

Document 116

Filed 09/10/2008

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Phone: 412–765–0744

Fax: **412-**765-3539

Joy A. Hartman

Maureen T. McCall

Johnson and Mimless
Court Reporters

1334 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-6214

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA)

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

USA, et al., vs. BRMC, et al.

I, Joy Hartman, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that the witnesses (Martin David Jacobs, M.D., V. Rao Nadella, Dilbagh Singh, M.D., Paul Kirsch and Sal A. Barbera), was duly sworn and that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the deposition was submitted to the witnesses for inspection and signing.

The deposition was not signed by the witness within thirty days of its submission to the witness and, therefore, my signature below constitutes my signature of the deposition in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. 4017©.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 4th day of September, 2008.

Joy A. Hartman

CC: Andrew M. Stone, Esquire
Daniel M. Mulholland, III, Esquire
Carl J. Rychcik, Esquire

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NOTAFIAL SEAL

JOY A. HAPTMAN, Notary Public

City of Pitaburgh County of Allegheny

My Commission Scottes May 9, 2010

4. KIRSCH DEPOSITION EXCERPTS

CONFIDENTIAL - PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA ERIE DIVISION

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.)

DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,)
M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and)
MARTIN JACOBS, M.D.,

Relators,

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vs.) Civil Action) No. 04-186E

BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, , V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC,) PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,) M.D., and DOES I through XX,)

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF PAUL B. KIRSCH, M.D.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007

Deposition of PAUL B. KIRSCH, M.D., called as a witness by the Defendant Bradford Regional Medical Center, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and before Joy A. Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the offices of Stone Law Firm, 1400 Allegheny Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, commencing at 2:50 p.m. on the day and date above set forth.

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ORIGINAL

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USA, et al., vs. BRMC, et al.

Vо	No. 04-186E				
	Page 17				
1	instruct him not to answer.				
2	(Question certified for later discussion.)				
3	Q. Was there a dispute between you and Bradford				
4	Regional Medical Center over the termination of any				
5	agreement that you may have had regarding Dr. Ali?				
6	MR. STONE: Again, I will object and				
7	instruct him not to answer.				
8	(Question certified for later discussion.)				
9	Q. Dr. Kirsch, at the present time, do you				
10	consider yourself to be a competitor of Dr. Saleh or				
11	Dr. Vaccaro?				
12	A. No.				
13	Q. Is it your understanding that they practice				

14 internal medicine in Bradford just as you do? A. That's correct. Q. And you don't view yourself as a competitor? 16 17 A. No. Q. Why not? 18

A. Because I, basically, have a full practice, and 19 20 I'm as busy as I want to be, and I don't think they

21 take my patients, and I'm not looking to take their 22 patients, so I don't feel there is any competition

2 their practice in Bradford, would you financially

A. I don't know if I could say that one way or the

Q. Do you consider yourself to be a competitor of

Q. And, again, would that be for the same reason 10 you expressed with respect to Drs. Saleh and Vaccaro?

23 whatsoever.

3 benefit?

5 other.

A. No.

1 General or some other category of the staff?

2 A. Courtesy.

3 Q. Do your courtesy staff privileges at Olean

4 General permit you to refer patients to Olean General

5 for diagnostic tests?

6 A. I am able to refer patients to any accredited

7 diagnostic facility in the United States by virtue of

8 me being a physician. You don't need privileges at

9 any particular institution to be able to refer.

Q. And you refer patients to Bradford Regional

11 Medical Center for nuclear cardiology studies?

12 A. Yes, I do.

Q. Do you refer patients to Olean General for

14 nuclear cardiology studies?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Do you refer patients to Tri-County Diagnostic

17 for nuclear cardiology studies?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you refer patients anywhere else for nuclear

20 cardiology studies?

21 MR. STONE: You can go ahead and answer.

22 A. Yes.

23 O. Can you mention some of the facilities?

Page 18

Q. If Dr. Saleh and Dr. Vaccaro were to close 1 A. Hamot Medical Center, Erie, Pennsylvania; St.

2 Vincent's Hospital, Erie, Pennsylvania; University of

3 Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh; Buffalo General

4 Hospital, Buffalo, New York; Millard Fillmore

5 Hospital, Buffalo, New York; Strong Memorial Hospital,

6 Rochester, New York; Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland. I

7 think that is about it.

9 where to refer a patient for nuclear cardiology

10 studies?

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Q. I forgot to ask this question at the outset, 13 but you sat through Dr. Nadella's deposition, at least

A. I did. 15

12

Q. Doctor, are you presently appointed to the

17 medical staff of any hospital, other than Bradford

18 Regional Medical Center?

A. That's correct.

7 Drs. Jacobs, Singh or Nadella?

14 most of the deposition, did you not?

A. Olean General hospital.

Q. Do you have clinical privileges at Olean 20

21 General Hospital?

22 A. Yes.

Q. Are you appointed to the active staff at Olean

Q. What criteria, if any, do you use to decide

11 MR. STONE: I'm going to object to any 12 further question with regard to Dr. Kirsch's business relationships with any entities as 13 14 again being irrelevant and subject to Judge 15 Cohill's order.

MR. MULHOLLAND: I wasn't asking for business relationships. I was asking for criteria that he uses as to where a patient should go.

MR. STONE: Again, it is not relevant to the case because this is about V&S and an illegal arrangement that V&S had with BRMC, and what Dr. Kirsch does is irrelevant to this

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HEBHAZ CASE11:04-64-00186-MBC Margaret Koenig Mimless

Maureen T. McCall Joy A. Hartman Document 116

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Fax; 412-765-3539

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA)

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

USA, et al., vs. BRMC, et al.

I, Joy Hartman, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that the witnesses (Martin David Jacobs, M.D., V. Rao Nadella, Dilbagh Singh, M.D., Paul Kirsch and Sal A. Barbera), was duly sworn and that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the deposition was submitted to the witnesses for inspection and signing.

The deposition was not signed by the witness within thirty days of its submission to the witness and, therefore, my signature below constitutes my signature of the deposition in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. 4017©.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 4th day of September, 2008.

Joy A. Hartman

CC: Andrew M. Stone, Esquire
Daniel M. Mulholland, III, Esquire
Carl J. Rychcik, Esquire

Commonwer as Tennsylvania
NOTARIAL SEAL
JOY A. HARTMAN, Notary Public
City of Piteburgh County of Allegheny
My Commence Evolves May 9, 2010

Case 1:04-cv-00186-MBC Document 116 Filed 09/10/2008 Page 32 of 43 CONFIDENTIAL - PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION 1 1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 ERIE DIVISION 4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.) 5 DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,) M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and 6 MARTIN JACOBS, M.D., 7 Relators, Civil Action 8 No. 04-186E VS. 9 BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC, 1.0 PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,) M.D., and DOES I through XX, 11 Defendants. 12 1.3 DEPOSITION OF V. RAO NADELLA, M.D. 14 MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007 1.5 Deposition of V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., called as a 16 witness by the Defendant Bradford Regional Medical 17 Center, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition and the 18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and before Joy A. 19 Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at the offices of Stone Law Firm, 1400 Allegheny Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, commencing at 10:03 a.m. on the day and date above set forth.

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Multi-Page TM

1

2

4

V. Rao Nadella, M.D. August 20, 2007

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Page 22

1 accommodate any more people than whom I am seeing, so

- 2 it will not benefit me one bit.
- Q. Doctor, are you presently appointed to any
- 4 hospital medical staff other than Bradford Regional
- 5 Medical Center?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And at what hospitals?
- A. I am on as courtesy staff privileges at Olean
- General Hospital.
- Q. And any other hospital besides Olean General?
- 11 A. No.
- Q. Do your clinical privileges at Olean General 12
- 13 allow you to refer patients there for diagnostic
- 14 imaging tests?
- A. Well, as far as referring for diagnostic 15
- 16 imaging tests, you can refer them even to a hospital
- 17 where you don't have privileges, you know. I refer
- 18 them even to the other hospitals where I don't have
- 19 privileges.
- 20 So it really -- you don't need to have
- 21 privileges to refer for diagnostic testing to have
- 22 privileges, and I do refer certain cases to Olean
- 23 General.

hospital.

I don't know, are you instructing him not

to answer, or just interposing an objection? 3

MR. STONE: I think he can answer that

question. Go ahead.

A. Yes. I now refer cases to Olean General on

7 numerous occasions for nuclear camera; but they will

8 not go under my name, because I do not perform the

tests in Olean General.

So most of the time when I refer cases to Olean 10

11 General for nuclear testing, it is referred to a local

12 cardiologist. Olean General has at least three

13 cardiologists on staff, and they have many internists

14 who do nuclear testing.

So, usually, when I refer a case for nuclear

16 testing to Olean General, it is referred to one of

these physicians, and I have referred a number of

18 cases to them.

Q. Dr. Nadella, are you a participating physician

- 20 in the Federal Medicare Program?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Are you a participating physician in the
- 23 Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Program?

Page 23

- Q. So, basically, you can refer patients anywhere
- 2 you wanted for diagnostic imaging, correct?
- A. That is correct, provided it is convenient to
- 4 the patient, provided that service is available at
- 5 that particular facility.
- Q. Do you know if Olean General has a nuclear 6
- 7 camera?
- A. I do, and they do have.
- Q. Do you ever refer patients to Olean General for
- 10 nuclear cardiology tests?
- A. Yes. 11

13

18

- MR. STONE: I'm going to object to the 12
 - question. It is completely irrelevant what Dr.
- 14 Nadella -- where Dr. Nadella refers his
- patients and on what basis, and it is not 15
- relevant to what V&S does with regard to 16
- Bradford Regional Medical Center. 17
 - MR. MULHOLLAND: I think it is relevant
- relative to any alternatives that are available 19
- in the region for patients needing nuclear 20 21
 - cardiology tests, because the Relators at one
- 22 point had raised some questions about whether
- or not a second camera was needed by the

- 1 A. Yes.
 - 2 Q. I'm going to show you a document, Doctor, and I
 - 3 will ask that it first be marked as Exhibit 2, I
 - 4 guess.
 - (Relators' Deposition Exhibit No. 2 was 5
 - 6 marked for identification.)
 - Q. Doctor, I will represent to you that this is a
 - 8 copy of the Complaint that you and the other Relators
- 9 filed in this lawsuit. I'm going to ask some
- 10 questions about it; but I just wanted to make sure
- 11 that it was your understanding that this was a copy of
- 12 the Complaint?
- 13 MR. STONE: Take a minute and look through
- 14 it.
- Q. Certainly, Doctor, take as much time and let me
- 16 know when you are ready to respond to some specific
- 17 questions.
- 18 A. Yes.
- Q. Doctor, if you could just please turn to the
- 20 second page of the document you have in front of you.
- 21 It is the page before that. It is an unnumbered page,
- 22 which is the second page in the document you have in
- 23 front of you.

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Page 50

THE WITNESS: Yes. I saw it.

- Q. Doctor, do you have any information that would
- 3 lead you to believe that this cost report was filed at
- 4 some other time other than March 25, 2005?
- A. No. I don't.
- Q. Doctor, if you could please read the paragraph
- 7 under the words "Certification by Officer or
- 8 Administrator of Providers," and let me know when you
- 9 are ready to answer any questions about that?
- A. Which one? 10
- Q. This is it, in the middle of the form.
- A. Okay. This one?
- Q. Yes. Do you see where I am referring?
- 14 A. Yes. Yes, I do.
- Okay. Go ahead. 15
- 16 Q. Is there anything in this certification,
- 17 Doctor, that is in front of you today that says that
- 18 the Medical Center's claims are not infected by a
- 19 kickback?
- 20 A. Actually, this is something I'm seeing here for
- 21 the first time. I have not seen this one before, and
- 22 I have no knowledge one way or the other whether you
- 23 know -- you know, I couldn't tell you one way or the

- paragraph, that certification.
- 2 A. To the Certification by Officer or
- 3 Administrator?
- Q. Certification by Officer of Administrator of
- 5 Providers, that's correct. Right.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is there anything in this paragraph that refers
- 8 to the Stark law?
- A. I don't see it here.
- Q. Doctor, in the paragraph that your attorney
- 11 just mentioned under, "Part I, Certification," if you
- 12 could take a moment and review that?
- 13 A. Okay.
- Q. Doctor, is there any reference to the Stark law
- 15 in that paragraph?
- A. It does say Federal law. I presume the Stark
- 17 law is the Federal law.
- Q. I see. But it refers to misrepresentation
- 19 being subject to penalties under Federal law, correct?
- A. That is correct.
- Q. But is there any specific reference to the
- 22 Stark law in that paragraph?
- A. It does not mention Stark law, but it states

Page 51

- 1 other, yes or no.
- 2 Q. Is there any reference in the paragraph that is
- 3 in front of you now to the Medicare Anti-kickback
- 4 Statute that you can see on that form?
- 5 MR. STONE: Again, I will object to the
 - extent that Dr. Nadella is not a legal expert
- 7 in the field; and to the extent that it
- 8 requires some kind of a legal analysis, I will
- 9 object to it on that basis. But, certainly, he
- 10 can answer as a lay witness.
- 11 A. Can you repeat the question, please?
- 12 MR. MULHOLLAND: Could you read the 13 question back to him, please?
- 14 (Previous question read back.)
- A. No. 15

6

- 16 MR. STONE: Are you referring just to the 17 one paragraph or the paragraph above it?
- 18 MR. MULHOLLAND: I was referring just to
- 19 the one paragraph, right.
- 20 MR. STONE: But you are not asking him
- 21 about the rest of the document? Just the one 22 paragraph?
- 23 MR. MULHOLLAND: That's right, to that one

1 Federal law.

2

4

15

- MR. MULHOLLAND: Doctor, I'm going to ask
- 3 that this next document be marked as Exhibit 4.
 - MR. STONE: Before we move on, also, I
- 5 want to state on the record that the paragraphs
- that have been referred to in the questioning 6
- 7 of Dr. Nadella speak for themselves, and so Dr.
- 8 Nadella's interpretation of what is on the page
- 9 should not be construed as a statement of what
- 10 is on the page.
- 11 That was not actually read into the
- 12 record. It is referred to as an exhibit, and I
- 13 would direct attention to the exhibit that
- 14 speaks for itself.
 - (Relators' Deposition Exhibit No. 4
- 16 was marked for identification.)
- Q. Doctor, let me know when you are ready to
- 18 answer a question about this document.
- A. Well, this is a pretty long document. It takes
- 20 me quite a bit of time to study the whole thing, but
- 21 if you can ask me which part of the document you are
- 22 going to ask me about --
- MR. STONE: Doctor, take your time and

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V. Rao Nadella, M.D. August 20, 2007

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No. 04-186E Page 54 read the document through, and then you can let 1 been reviewed and the data entered into the 2 him know. 2 Department's computer system." Q. Doctor, please do, and then let me know when Q. Thank you, Doctor. Is there anything in the 4 you are ready to answer questions about it. paragraph that you just read that mentions either the A. Okay. Yeah. Go ahead. 5 Stark law or the Anti-kickback law? Q. Doctor, I will represent to you that this is a A. No. 7 copy of a document produced in discovery to the Q. Is there anything in the paragraph that you 8 Relators by Bradford Regional Medical Center, which is 8 just read that says anything about the hospital being 9 the certification made of the Medicaid Cost Report 9 in compliance with the law? 10 filed by the Medical Center for the fiscal year ended 10 MR. STONE: Again, I'm going to object. 11 June 30, 2004. The document speaks for itself; and, again, Dr. 11 12 If you look on the second page of the document 12 Nadella is not a legal expert. 13 in front of you, which you have in front of you right 13 To the extent that he has a lay 14 now, you will see above the line where it asks for the 14 understanding of the form, of course, he can 15 address of preparer, there is a date 12-15-04. 15 16 Do you see where I am talking about? 16 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question, 17 A. Yes. 17 please? Q. Doctor, do you have any information that this 18 (Previous question read back.) 19 Medicaid Cost Report would have been filed on any date 19 A. It states that it is in compliance, because it

23 Officer or Administrator of Providers in the middle of

Q. Now, Doctor, there is a Certification by

20 other than December 15, 2004?

A. I don't.

21

22

Page 55

Page 57

1 that form. Do you see where I am referring to? A. Which part? Q. It is in the middle of that page, right here. A. This paragraph? Q. Yes. That is it. A. Yes.

Q. Could you read that aloud into the record, 8 please?

A. Yes: "I hereby certify that I have read the 10 above statement and have examined the accompanying

11 Cost Report and supporting schedules, which present

12 true, correct, and complete cost/charge statements

13 prepared from the books and records of the providers

14 in accordance with applicable instructions except as

15 specifically noted. I agree to immediately notify the

16 Department of any errors related to the attached

17 information as soon as it is discovered and to provide

18 corrected information as soon as possible.

19 "I also agree that to the extent the informa-

20 tion on the accompanying Cost Report and supporting

21 schedules is used for rate setting purposes, the

22 Department is under no obligation to use any amended

23 information submitted by me once the Cost Report has

Q. But there is nothing that affirmatively

2 represents that the hospital is in compliance with any

20 says this misrepresentation or falsification of any

22 by fine and/or imprisonment under State or Federal

21 information contained in this report may be punishable

3 law?

23 law.

4 A. Not in this paragraph.

5 Q. Not in this paragraph. Thank you.

6 Now, Doctor, I'm going to show you another

7 document that I will asked be marked as Exhibit 5.

A. Okay. 8

9 (Relators' Deposition Exhibit No. 5 was

10 marked for identification.)

Q. Doctor, I'm going to represent to you that this

12 is a copy of a document that was produced to the

13 Relators in discovery, which is the signature page

14 from the hospital's CHAMPUS Cost Report that was filed

15 for the year ended June 30, 2004. If you could please

16 look at line 12 of that form. Do you see where I am

17 referring to?

18 A. Yes, sir.

Q. On that line 12, it indicates that the

20 reporting date was November 30, 2004. Do you have any

21 information that would lead you to believe that this

22 CHAMPUS cost report was filed at any time other than

23 November 30, 2004?

Page 36 of 43 V. Rao Nadella, M.D. August 20, 2007

Page 58 Page 60 A. I don't. l what that paragraph says, and whether there is Q. And then, Doctor, if you could please read 2 anything in the paragraph that certifies that the 3 aloud into the record the paragraph below reporting 3 hospital is in compliance with the law. 4 date which begins, "I certify the above information"? A. That the hospital is in compliance or not in A. Sure. "I certify the above information is 5 compliance? 6 accurate and based upon the Hospital's Medicaid Cost Q. Either way. 7 Report submitted to HCFA. The Cost Reports filed. A. Either way. It does state, "misrepresentation 8 together with any documentation are true, correct, and 8 or falsification of any of the information in the Cost 9 complete based upon the books and records of the 9 Report is punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. 10 hospital. Q. But does that say that the hospital is in 11 "Misrepresentation or falsification of any of 11 compliance with the law? 12 the information in the Cost Reports is punishable by 12 A. I cannot answer. 13 fine and/or imprisonment. Any changes which are a Q. Doctor, at various places in the Complaint you 14 result of a desk review, audit or appeal of the 14 allege that Bradford Regional Medical Center submitted 15 Hospital's Medicare Cost Report must be reported to 15 claims for payment to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHAMPUS. 16 the TRICARE/CHAMPUS contractor within 30 days of the 16 Have you seen any of those claims that were filed for 17 date the hospital is notified of the change. 17 payment? 18 "Failure to report the changes can be con-18 A. No. 19 sidered fraudulent, which may result in criminal/civil Q. Are you familiar with the Medicare form called 20 penalties or administrative sanctions of suspension or 20 the UB-92 claim form used by hospitals to bill for 21 exclusion as an authorized provider." 21 their services? Q. Thank you, Doctor. Is there anything in the A. No. 23 paragraph which you just read which specifically 23 Q. Now, Doctor, attached to the Complaint, several

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1 refers to either the Stark law or the Anti-kickback 2 law? 3 A. No. 4 MR. STONE: Again, I'm going to object to 5 the question on the basis that Dr. Nadella is not a legal expert and the document speaks for 6 7 itself. To the extent that Dr. Nadella has a 8 lay understanding of what is in the document, he can, of course, answer. Q. Dr. Nadella, is there anything in the paragraph 11 that you just read which constitutes a certification 12 on the part of the hospital that it is in compliance

1 pages back after the actual Complaint itself, is a 2 document that was marked as Exhibit A to the 3 Complaint. It follows page 27 in the document you 4 have in front of you. If you could look at that for a 5 moment, and let me know when you are ready to answer 6 questions about it. A. Okay. Yeah. Sure. Q. Doctor, have you seen this document before, 9 this Exhibit A? 10 A. Yes, sir. 11 Q. Is this the arrangement between Bradford 13 that you contend constitutes a violation of the Stark 14 law and the Anti-kickback law? 15 A. Yes.

(Previous question read back.) MR. STONE: Again, I will object on the

THE WITNESS: Can you repeat the question,

17 18 basis that it calls for a legal conclusion.

19 You can answer if you understand.

20 A. I don't believe, you know, I have the legal

21 expertise to answer this particular question.

22 Q. But I am not asking for a legal conclusion,

23 Doctor. I am asking you for your understanding of

12 Regional Medical Center and V&S Medical Associates

Q. Had you read this document before you filed the

17 Complaint?

18 A. Yes.

Q. Now, in the response that you gave to the

20 hospital's interrogatories, you said that a copy of

21 this document was left in your mailbox in November of

22 2003. Do you recall that?

A. Yes, I do.

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13 with the law?

please?

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Page 128 Page 126 1 Nadella and BRMC to be violation of either the Stark Q. Did BRMC pay Singh & Nadella approximately 2 \$8,000 a month for that leased space? 2 law or the Anti-kickback law? 3 A. I don't believe that amount is correct. You MR. STONE: I am going to object and 4 know, actually, we bought myself -- both myself and instruct the witness not to answer. 5 Dr. Singh are partners in the real estate. We own the 5 (Ouestion certified for later discussion.) 6 building together, and BRMC had occupied about 6500 Q. If the answer to that question is no, why not? 6 7 7 square foot, roughly, approximately 6500 square foot MR. STONE: I object and instruct him not 8 in our building. You know, Dr. Singh typically has 8 to answer. 9 handled these rental things, the rental side of the 9 (Question certified for later discussion.) 10 business, which I know we have rented it to BRMC. I O. Is there currently a dispute between BRMC and 11 couldn't tell you the exact amount, but I don't 11 Singh & Nadella about monies allegedly owed by BRMC to 12 remember -- but I remember it being between six and 12 Singh & Nadella for the lease? 13 MR. STONE: I'm going to object and 13 seven thousand. Q. Six and seven thousand per month? 14 instruct him not to answer. 14 15 A. That is my approximate recollection, but Dr. (Question certified for later discussion.) 16 Singh has handled these matters more than I did. 16 MR. MULHOLLAND: I don't have any of other 17 MR. STONE: Again, I'm going to object to 17 questions at this time. Carl? 18 MR. RYCHCIK: Yes, I have questions. 18 any further questioning along this line, 19 19 because, again, it gets into the business relationship of this plaintiff and other 20 EXAMINATION 20 21 BY MR. RYCHCIK: 21 plaintiffs in this case, and the Judge has 22 already ruled that those are relationships that O. Doctor, my name is Carl Rychcik, and I 23 are not relevant to the subject matter of this 23 represent Drs. Vaccaro and Saleh, as well as V&S Page 129 Page 127 1 Medical Associates in this matter. I'm going to be case, which is a lease agreement between V&S 1 2 asking you some additional questions. You will have 2 and BRMC. Unless you can demonstrate to the Court 3 to excuse me. Obviously, Mr. Mulholland has asked you 3 4 that somehow these relationships would either 4 a number of questions. I will try not to duplicate 5 too much, but I will skip around a little bit and ask make the V&S relationship legal or provide some 5 6 other kind of defense, I don't see how it is 6 some follow-ups that I feel are necessary. 7 relevant to the claim in the case. A. Okay. MR. MULHOLLAND: Let me ask the rest of Q. I believe you testified that V&S Medical 8 9

the questions along this line of this
questioning, and then you can object as needed.

MR. STONE: I will object as they come up.
Q. Is the lease between BRMC and Singh & Nadella
still in effect?

MR. STONE: Again, I'm going to object to
any further questions along this line and
instruct him not to answer.

(Question certified for later discussion.)
Q. While the lease was still in effect, did you
and Dr. Singh refer patients to BRMC?

MR. STONE: I'm going to object and

(Question certified for later discussion.)

7 A. Okay.
8 Q. I believe you testified that V&S Medical
9 Associates offers similar types of services to your
10 practice, Singh & Nadella; is that correct?
11 A. Yes, that is correct.
12 Q. And in your Bradford office, how far is that
13 V&S Medical Associates?

14 A. Probably about one block.

15 Q. One block?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You also testified that you were unaware who

18 placed a copy of the sublease at issue in this case in

19 your mailbox; is that correct?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Sitting here today, do you have any suspicion

22 who may have placed that in your mailbox?

MR. STONE: I'm going to instruct the

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instruct the witness not to answer.

Q. Did you believe the lease between Singh &

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Phone: 412–765–0744



Maureen T. McCall

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Fax; 412-765-3539

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA)

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY)

USA, et al., vs. BRMC, et al.

I, Joy Hartman, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that the witnesses (Martin David Jacobs, M.D., V. Rao Nadella, Dilbagh Singh, M.D., Paul Kirsch and Sal A. Barbera), was duly sworn and that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the deposition was submitted to the witnesses for inspection and signing.

The deposition was not signed by the witness within thirty days of its submission to the witness and, therefore, my signature below constitutes my signature of the deposition in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. 4017©.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 4th day of September, 2008.

Joy A. Hartman

CC: Andrew M. Stone, Esquire
Daniel M. Mulholland, III, Esquire
Carl J. Rychcik, Esquire

Commonwealth a Tennsylvarial
NOTARIAL SEAL
JOY A HAPTMAN, Notary Public
City of Pitspurgh County of Allegheny
My Commission Evolves May 9, 2010

6. JACOBS DEPOSITION EXCERPTS

CONFIDENTIAL - PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION 1 1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 2 ERIE DIVISION 3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ex rel.) DILBAGH SINGH, M.D., PAUL KIRSCH,) M.D., V. RAO NADELLA, M.D., and 4 MARTIN JACOBS, M.D., 5 Relators, Civil Action 6 No. 04-186EVS. 7 BRADFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, V&S MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, LLC, 8 PETER VACCARO, M.D., KAMRAN SALEH,) M.D., and DOES I through XX, 9 Defendants. 10 11 12 DEPOSITION OF MARTIN DAVID JACOBS, M.D. TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007 13 14 Deposition of MARTIN DAVID JACOBS, M.D., called 15 as a witness by the Defendant Bradford Regional Medical Center, taken pursuant to Notice of Deposition 16 and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, by and 17 18 before Joy A. Hartman, a Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at 19 the offices of Stone Law Firm, 1400 Allegheny 20 21 Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, commencing at 3:08 22 p.m. on the day and date above set forth. 23

USA et al., vs. BRMC, et al.

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Martin David Jacobs, M.D. August 21, 2007

No. 04-186E Page 11 Page 9 1 A. No. relevant. I'm going to instruct the witness 2 Q. Do you have privileges at anywhere other than not to answer for the reasons stated in Judge 3 Bradford Regional Medical Center? Cohill's previous order. 3 MR. MULHOLLAND: We will certainly take 5 Q. Do you specialize in any particular type of exception with that and ask you to mark that 5 6 medical practice? 6 A. Internal medicine. 7 (Question certified for later discussion.) O. The guilty plea is a matter of public record, O. Are you Board certified in internal medicine? 9 and the question I had in connection with the guilty 10 plea is whether or not you ever informed the Court or O. Have you ever taken the Board certification 11 exam previously? 11 the U.S. Attorney's office of your interest in this 12 lawsuit? 12 A. No. 13 13 Q. Doctor, can you please describe your education MR. STONE: Again, I'm going to object to 14 that question for the reasons that I just 14 starting with your college education moving forward 15 through medical school and residency programs? 15 articulated, and any other questions about any A. I went to college in New York City. I can't 16 cases that Dr. Jacobs is involved with with 17 remember the exact year I graduated. The easiest way 17 regard to any alleged criminal matters. 18 for me is to count backwards from when I got to (Question certified for later discussion.) 18 Q. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy protection, 19 Bradford. 19 20 Doctor? 20 So I got to Bradford in about 1980. Before I 21 got here, I worked for about two years in a medical A. No. 21 Q. Have you assigned any right that you might have 22 office in New York City, independent practice; and 23 before that, I was a resident in internal medicine at 23 to any share of a recovery in a settlement or a Page 10 Page 12 1 the Bronx VA Hospital. Before that, one year of 1 judgment of this case to any third party? A. No. 2 straight medical internship at Cumberland Medical 2 3 MR. MULHOLLAND: Again, we will take 3 Center. exception with your other objection. Before that, five years of medical school in O. Have you spoken to anyone other than your 5 the Universit de Montpellier, Montpellier, France. 6 Before that, I worked for about a year and a half as a 6 attorneys about your testimony today at this 7 deposition? 7 chemist. I was a chemistry major in college, and 8 before that, I graduated. A. No. Q. Did you bring any documents with you today to Q. Where did you go to college? Hunter College? 10 the deposition? A. Hunter College. A. No. Well -- I didn't bring them. I got this, 11 Q. Did you complete the residency program? A. Yes. 12 the Complaint, from my lawyer. MR. STONE: He just has a copy of the Q. Have you ever attended law school or received 13 14 any legal training? 14 Complaint. Q. A copy of the Complaint, fine. 15 A. No. 15 Q. Even though you are not a lawyer, Doctor, what Are you licensed to practice medicine in 16 17 is your general understanding of what the Stark Law 17 Pennsylvania?

18 prohibits?

A. I believe the Stark Law prohibits self-

21 entity in which you have a financial interest.

Q. Do you understand there to be certain
 exceptions for relationships that -- with entities to

20 referral, which means you can't refer patients to any

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Q. Are you licensed to practice medicine in New

Q. Do you have privileges at Olean General

A. Yes.

A. Yes.

23 Hospital?

20 York?

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USA et al., vs. BRMC, et al. No. 04-186E

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Martin David Jacobs, M.D. August 21, 2007

No. 04-186E	August 21, 2007
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1 direct him not to answer.	1 A. Correct.
2 (Question certified for later discussion.)	2 Q. What type of services do you provide in your
3 Q. Do you receive compensation from Tri-County for	3 practice?
4 supervising tests at the Tri-County facility?	4 A. Internal medicine, does that answer your
5 MR. STONE: Again, I will object and	5 question?
6 direct him not to answer.	6 Q. Well, let me ask you the next question. Are
7 (Question certified for later discussion.)	7 you familiar with V&S Medical Associates?
8 Q. Are you compensated by Tri-County for	8 A. Yes.
9 supervising tests on patients that you refer to	9 Q. Are you familiar with the types of practice
10 Tri-County?	10 they have?
11 MR. STONE: Object and direct him not to	11 A. As far as I know, they are both internists and
12 answer.	12 they provide internal medicine services?
13 (Question certified for later discussion.)	13 Q. Similar to the type that you provide?
14 Q. How is your compensation determined from	14 A. I think they provided more detail. Well, the
15 Tri-County?	15 difference between them and me is that they have
16 MR. STONE: I will object and direct him	16 procedures they do in their office, whereas, I usually
17 not to answer.	17 refer procedures out.
18 (Question certified for later discussion.)	18 As a solo practitioner, it doesn't pay
19 Q. Do you get paid on a per test basis by	19 economically for me to buy a lot of different machines
20 Tri-County?	20 and do stuff in the office; but, basically, you can
21 MR. STONE: I'll object and direct him not	21 get the same diagnostic and treatment services from
22 to answer.	22 both of us.
23 MR. MULHOLLAND: Again, we will take	23 Q. Where is their office located in relation to
Page 42	
exception to those objections and ask that this	1 yours? 2 A. Half a mile away? Maybe less.
be marked for certification to the Court.	
3 (Question certified for later discussion.)	Q. How would you describe your relationship with 4 Drs. Vaccaro and Saleh?
4 MR. MULHOLLAND: Subject to all the	
5 stipulations and reservations that we have	6 go to medical meetings together, medical staff
6 discussed at this and the previous Relators'	7 meetings, committee meetings.
depositions, I don't have any other questions	
8 for Dr. Jacobs at this time.	9 of the sublease agreement between BRMC and V&S. Do
9 MR. RYCHCIK: If we could take just a	
five-minute break, that would be helpful.	10 you recall that testimony?
MR. STONE: Sure.	11 A. Yes.
12 (Recess taken at 3:56 p.m., and testimony	12 Q. I believe you said that you thought you got a
resumed at 4:03 p.m. this date.)	13 copy of the lease from either Dr. Singh and/or Dr.
14	14 Nadella?
15 EXAMINATION	15 A. Yes.
16 BY MR. RYCHCIK:	Q. Do you know why they provided a copy of the
17 Q. Dr. Jacobs, as I believe you heard previously,	17 sublease to you, specifically?
18 my name is Carl Rychcik, and I represent Drs. Vaccaro	18 A. You would have to ask them why.
19 and Saleh, as well as V&S Medical Associates in this	19 Q. Do you have any understanding?
20 action, and I will be asking you some questions in	20 A. It is my understanding that they thought that
21 follow-up to Mr. Mulholland.	21 this was improper, and they wanted my opinion on it.
22 You testified earlier that you are in private	22 Q. And did you provide, subsequently, a copy of
23 practice in Bradford; is that correct?	23 the sublease to anyone in particular?

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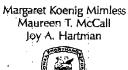
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Fax: **41**2-765-3539



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The deposition was not signed by the witness within thirty days of its submission to the witness and, therefore, my signature below constitutes my signature of the deposition in accordance with Pa.R.C.P. 4017©.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 4th day of September, 2008.

Joy A. Hartman

CC: Andrew M. Stone, Esquire
Daniel M. Mulholland, III, Esquire
Carl J. Rychcik, Esquire

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JOY A. HAPTMAN, Notary Public
City of Pitaburgh County of Allegheny
My Commission Evolves May 9, 2010